

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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December 3, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Michael O'Rielly, Brendan Carr and Jessica Rosenworcel
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner O'Rielly, Commissioner Carr, and Commissioner Rosenworcel,

According to the Commission's latest broadband deployment report, nearly one in three rural Ohioans lack broadband access. In an era when an internet connection is a necessity for daily life, this number is unacceptable, and it is our shared responsibility to do everything in our power to bridge the digital divide and bring affordable, reliable broadband to each of our constituents. While this has been a priority for the Commission and this Congress, there is still more that must be done.

Here in Ohio, a local internet service provider called Agile Networks is using a technology called TV white spaces (TVWS) to build a network that will reach more than 100,000 of our underserved constituents within the next four years. However, we understand that providers like Agile Networks are frustrated with the regulatory uncertainty that is limiting the needed investments and innovation in TVWS technology that would improve performance and reduce costs – inhibiting this promising technology from being deployed in other states where the digital divide persists.

We are writing to encourage the Commission to finalize its outstanding proceedings, adopt the appropriate technical rules for TVWS deployment and ensure sufficient spectrum below 700 MHz is available for unlicensed broadband use, while also taking necessary steps to ensure TVWS deployment does not interfere with established broadcast operations. Additionally, we urge you to undertake additional rulemaking that would enable Internet of Things (IoT) opportunities for TVWS, such as broadband connectivity for school buses and precision agriculture.

In order for this technology to work for rural Ohioans, we must ensure the regulatory environment in Washington is not holding it back. We know that bridging the digital divide is among the Commission's top priorities. We do sincerely appreciate your efforts and hope you will consider removing the regulatory barriers to TVWS deployment. Such an action would allow the success we are seeing right here in the Buckeye State to be duplicated across the country.

Sincerely,


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress


Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



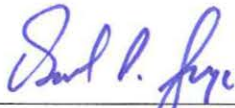
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



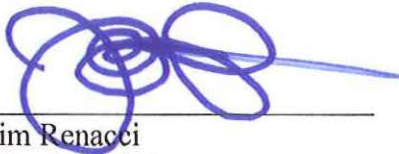
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress




David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



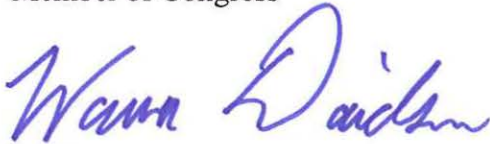
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 28, 2018

The Honorable Bill Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

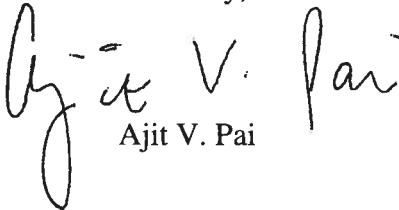
Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of affordable and reliable broadband in communities with limited access. Having grown up in rural Kansas, I know what the digital divide is like. That's why closing that divide is my top priority—and one that the Commission is working on all fronts to support. And that's why this year we streamlined rules to deploy the next-generation of wireless connectivity, known as 5G, encouraged carriers to replace aging copper with super-fast fiber on an expedited basis, launched the first auction for millimeter-wave spectrum, increased federal support for our rural healthcare program and for small, rural carriers serving high-cost areas, and held our nation's first reverse auction for fixed broadband support. The results of these actions will be felt throughout America, and especially in rural America, where as you know the case to build out broadband is all the harder for any business to make.

I also agree with you that unlicensed spectrum in the TV white spaces—those channels on which no broadcaster is broadcasting—promises an opportunity for new wireless broadband deployments. That's why I have asked staff to continue working on the many details left unfinished by the prior Administration, including resolution of how to ensure database accuracy. This is no simple task—after all, TV white space devices must fully protect all incumbent services like broadcasting, private land-mobile radio, radio astronomy, and Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. But it is one the Commission's excellent staff is well-positioned to carry out.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

December 28, 2018

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
U.S. House of Representatives
2419 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

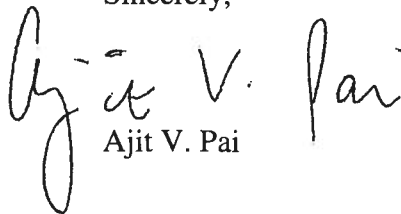
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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 28, 2018

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
U.S. House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Turner:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of affordable and reliable broadband in communities with limited access. Having grown up in rural Kansas, I know what the digital divide is like. That's why closing that divide is my top priority—and one that the Commission is working on all fronts to support. And that's why this year we streamlined rules to deploy the next-generation of wireless connectivity, known as 5G, encouraged carriers to replace aging copper with super-fast fiber on an expedited basis, launched the first auction for millimeter-wave spectrum, increased federal support for our rural healthcare program and for small, rural carriers serving high-cost areas, and held our nation's first reverse auction for fixed broadband support. The results of these actions will be felt throughout America, and especially in rural America, where as you know the case to build out broadband is all the harder for any business to make.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

December 28, 2018

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stivers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of affordable and reliable broadband in communities with limited access. Having grown up in rural Kansas, I know what the digital divide is like. That's why closing that divide is my top priority—and one that the Commission is working on all fronts to support. And that's why this year we streamlined rules to deploy the next-generation of wireless connectivity, known as 5G, encouraged carriers to replace aging copper with super-fast fiber on an expedited basis, launched the first auction for millimeter-wave spectrum, increased federal support for our rural healthcare program and for small, rural carriers serving high-cost areas, and held our nation's first reverse auction for fixed broadband support. The results of these actions will be felt throughout America, and especially in rural America, where as you know the case to build out broadband is all the harder for any business to make.

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December 28, 2018

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

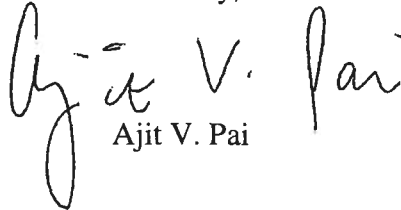
Dear Congressman Gibbs:

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December 28, 2018

The Honorable Jim Jordan
U.S. House of Representatives
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

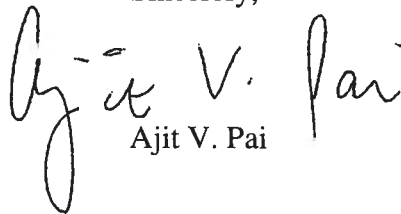
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December 28, 2018

The Honorable David Joyce
U.S. House of Representatives
1124 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

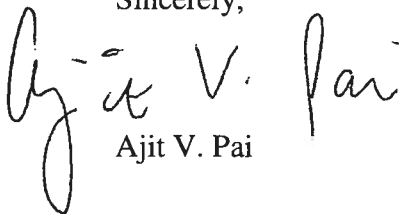
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December 28, 2018

The Honorable Joyce Beatty
U.S. House of Representatives
133 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

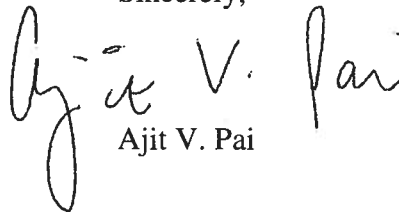
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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December 28, 2018

The Honorable James B. Renacci
U.S. House of Representatives
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

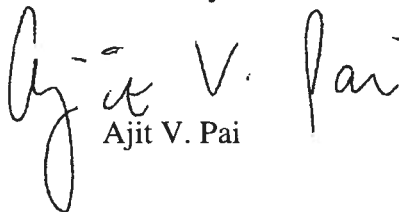
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December 28, 2018

The Honorable Steve Chabot
U.S. House of Representatives
2371 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

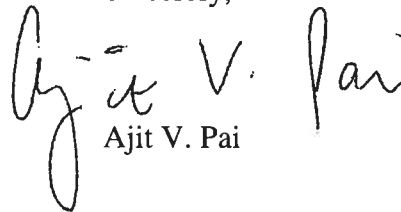
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December 28, 2018

The Honorable Warren Davidson
U.S. House of Representatives
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

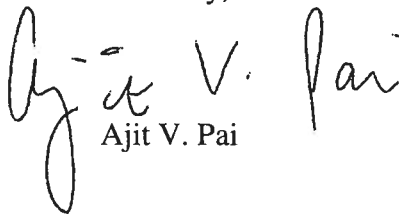
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